

CALIFORNIA STATE ATHLETIC COMMISSION

INITIAL STATEMENT OF REASONS

Hearing Date: February 9, 2002

Subject Matter of Proposed Regulations: Emergency Equipment, Personnel, and Proper Access

Section(s) Affected: 294

Specific Purpose of each adoption, amendment, or repeal:

Rule 294: The specific purpose of this section is to require adequate emergency equipment (an ambulance and two paramedics or emergency medical technicians) at all events, and access for a medical evacuation during and after a show.

These amendments are proposed to ensure that needed emergency equipment and personnel is present at all events, and that there is appropriate accessibility at all events. The equipment, personnel, and proper accessibility should be available at all fights for health and safety reasons and to prevent further injuries or irreversible harm to the fighter, or a death from occurring.

Current language specifies the requirement of a stretcher and oral airway under subsections (a) and (b); however, these two requirements will be incorporated under Rule 294 as an ambulance carries a stretcher and oral airway equipment.

Factual Basis

Factual basis for determination that each proposed change is necessary:

Rule 294: The basis for amending this Section is to ensure adequate emergency equipment and personnel, and access is available during and after a show to prevent egregious injuries upon the fighter and the possibility of death.

The basis for amending rule 294 is to ensure that the fighter has an ambulance available at a moments notice and appropriate professional paramedics or medical technicians to accommodate the injured fighter as soon as possible and in case the injury is life threatening in nature. When there is a medical emergency time is of the essence. Minutes may determine whether a person suffers severe irreparable damage or death. The Commission surveyed the majority of the states with a commission and all of the surveyed

stated that they require ambulances and either paramedics or emergency technicians at all of their events.

The other reason for amending rule 294 is to provide proper access at each event to allow medical personnel to easily reach the injured person and to transport them to a hospital facility as quickly as possible. In addition, the Commission wants to prevent another death from occurring such as the one that occurred in the State of New York in 2001. The emergency crew did not have proper access to transport the boxer from the venue and the boxer died. The Commission does not know if the lack of medical accessibility contributed to his death. However, it may have been a contributing factor. Therefore, the Commission would like to take as many precautionary measures as possible.

Underlying Data

The following states were contacted regarding the requirement that ambulances be present at boxing events: Nevada, Arizona, Texas, New Jersey, Florida, and Pennsylvania. The aforementioned states require ambulances to be present at all boxing events and be staffed either by two paramedics or two emergency medical technicians (EMTs). The cost for this requirement is between \$800 - \$1,000 per boxing event. They also stated that the cost varies by county.

Business Impact

This regulation will not have a significant adverse economic impact on businesses.

Specific Technologies or Equipment

This regulation does not mandate the use of specific technologies or equipment.

Consideration of Alternatives

No reasonable alternative which was considered or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of the commission would be either more effective in carrying out the purpose for which the action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed regulation.

Set forth below are the alternatives which were considered and the reasons each alternative was rejected:

Rule 294:

Leave current language as is which does not require that an ambulance or paramedics be available, where a lawsuit may prevail if a fighter sustains major injuries or death due to the lack of an ambulance or paramedics being available on the premises.

Leave current language as is which does not require proper accessibility to and from a facility that holds an event or to the injured party. This could result in a lawsuit against the promoter, the facility or company which holds the event, and to the Athletic Commission for knowingly holding an event where there is not proper access or there may not be proper access.